

MARVEL®

#1 IN A FOUR-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

HERCULES™

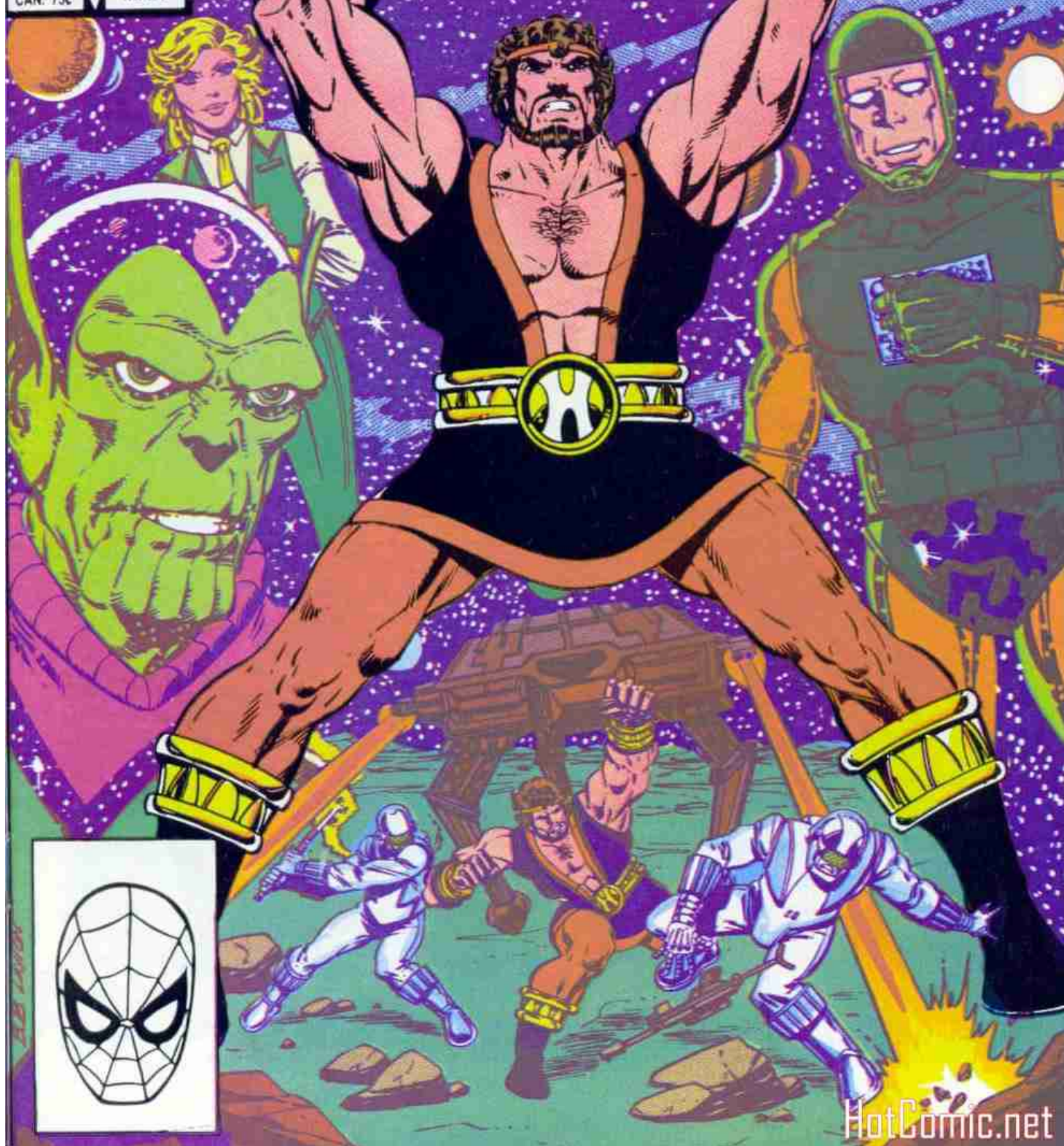
PRINCE OF POWER

60¢

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PROLOGUE

BY EARTH CHRONOLOGY, IT IS THE YEAR 2385! REBEL MILITARY FORCES HAVE SEIZED CONTROL OF THE MINING COLONY ON ASTEROID LERARAX-27!

THE RULING GOVERNMENT OF THE OMACRON SYSTEM, HAVING FAILED REPEATEDLY AT NEGOTIATION, HAS SENT A PLANETARY PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO SQUELCH THE UPRISING!

IN FRONT OF THOSE HEAVILY-ARMED TROOPS, ONE WARRIOR CLEARS THE WAY BY DRAWING OUT THE AMBUSHING REBELS!

THOUGH ALONE AND UNARMED, HIS MIGHT RIVALS THAT OF THE ENTIRE OMACRON ARMY! HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS HAVE COME TO RESPECT THE IMMENSE POWER HE WIELDS! HIS ENEMIES HAVE COME TO FEAR HIM!

BUT ALL KNOW HIM AS--

HERCULES

PRINCE OF POWER

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FORT TOLANDA, STRONGHOLD
OF THE REBEL FORCES--



REPORT, LT.
IBERI! HOW DOES
THE BATTLE?



APPARENTLY, OUR AMBUSH WAS
NOT AS SUCCESSFUL AS WE HAD
HOPED, COMMANDER! IT SEEMS
THEY SENT IN AN ADVANCE
SCOUT TO DRAW OUR TROOPS' FIRE!

BLAST! SO MUCH
FOR THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE!

HOW ARE OUR
COMMANDOS
FARING AGAINST
THOSE GOVERN-
MENT SWINE?!



WELL... ER... SIR, THE
MAJORITY OF OUR TROOPS
ARE STILL ENGAGED IN
BATTLE WITH THE LONE
SCOUT!

WHAT...?!



HAVE AT THEE,
REBEL CASTARDS! THIS DAY
VICTORY BELONGS TO THE
LION OF OLYMPUS!



AS THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS
ADVANCE TOWARD THE FORTRESS,
RECONNAISSANCE SHIPS ARE SENT
IN TO PROBE FOR WEAKNESSES
IN THE REBELS' DEFENSES...

STATEMENT:
I BELIEVE THEY HAVE ONLY
ONE PULSAR TURRET, CAPTAIN!
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO
STOP ALL OUR UNITS!



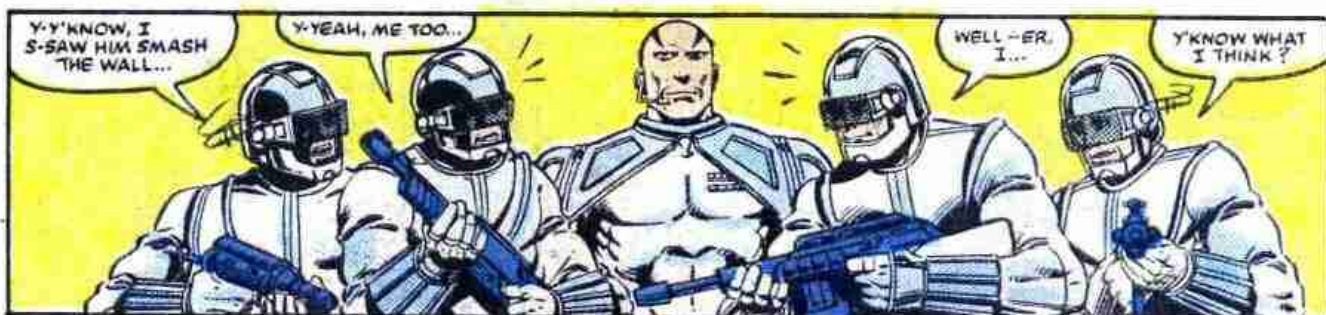


WITH THEIR DEFENSES ALL BUT DESTROYED, THE REBELS OFFER NO RESISTANCE TO THE ADVANCING GOVERNMENT TROOPS--

-- WITH ONE EXCEPTION!

HALT, OUTWORLDER! I AM COMMANDER STARD AND THESE MEN ARE SWORN BY OATH TO DEFEND ME WITH THEIR VERY LIVES IF NECESSARY!

--THE PRINCE OF POWER HATH ALREADY SINGLE-HANDEDLY DEFEATED THY GROUND TROOPS AND RAZED THE WALLS OF THY FORTRESS! BUT NO MATTER! IF THEY SEEK TO FULFIL THEIR OATHS--



Y-Y'KNOW, I S-SAW HIM SMASH THE WALL...

Y-YEAH, ME TOO...

WELL - ER, I...

Y'KNOW WHAT I THINK?



WHAT OATH...?

MOMENTS LATER...

WHEW! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE HIM! WHAT A SOLDIER!

STATEMENT:
GREETINGS, LORD HERCULES!
IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE THE
SITUATION WELL IN HAND!

AYE, FRIEND RECORDER!
THEY HAVE BEEN MOST CO-
OPERATIVE--EXCEPT FOR
THIS FOUL-TEMPERED
RASCAL, THE INSTIGATOR
OF THIS REBELLION!

WE FOUGHT ONLY TO KEEP WHAT IS OURS! THE
GOVERNMENT SEIZES OUR RESOURCES WHILE
NOT GIVING US OUR RIGHTFUL SHARE OF THE PROFITS!
OUR ONLY GOAL IS A NEW, JUST SOCIETY FOR ALL THE MINERS!

OBSERVATION:
THE COMMANDER'S BODY
TEMPERATURE IS 104°...
PULSE RATE 4.05 TIMES
NORMAL... ABNORMAL
ENERGY-FLUX READINGS...
FASCINATING!

RECORDER, ARE
THY SENSORS
MALFUNCTION-
ING?

INTERROGATIVE:
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU
AWARE THAT COMMANDER
STARD IS A *SKRULL*?

W-WHAT!

A SKRULL?!
A SHAPE-
CHANGER?!

GREAT
ZEUS!

STATEMENT:
OH, NO!
NO, SIR! I AM
IN PERFECT
WORKING
CONDITION!

THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!

QUITE POSSIBLE, PINK-
SKINNED TRASH! YOU
HUMANS ARE NO MATCH
FOR THE MACHINATIONS
OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE!
NOTHING IMPEDED MY RISE
TO LEADERSHIP AMONG YOU
BLIND, GUTLESS FOOLS!





HE REMEMBERS WHEN HE ARRIVED FORTY-ONE YEARS AGO IN THE OMACRON SYSTEM. COMMANDER MALIN WAS, AT THAT TIME, LEADER OF STARSTATION RAGA, A MILITARY DEFENSE OUTPOST.

TWICE DURING THE COMMANDER'S TOUR OF DUTY, HERCULES HAD SAVED THE SYSTEM FROM DESTRUCTION.

IT WAS ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE THAT THEIR FRIENDSHIP WAS FORGED.

THE OLYMPIAN SETTLED FOR A TIME ON GIESRIM-7, THE DISTILLER'S PLANET HE HAD DEFENDED. THERE HE ENJOYED THE REWARDS OF BEING THEIR SAVIOR.

BUT HE SOON GREW WEARY OF THE PEACEFUL LIFE AND LONGED FOR ADVENTURE ONCE AGAIN.

HERCULES FIRST CONTACTED THE REBELLIONS, WHO EARLIER HAD RECLAIMED RECORDER--

--WITHOUT WHOM HE COULD NOT NAVIGATE THE STARS.

AFTER SOME CASUALTY, HE PERSUADED THE REBELLION SUB-COMMISSIONER TO PUT THE ROBOT IN HIS CHARGE ONCE MORE.

A SHORT TIME LATER, HERCULES JOINED THE OMACRON STAR-CAVALRY TO FIGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE COMMANDER.

MANY VIOLENT TRIUMPHS FOLLOWED--

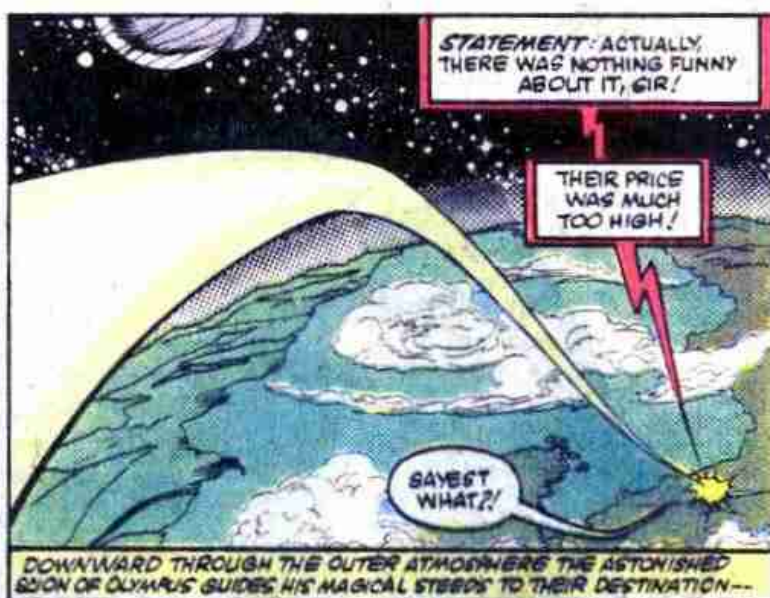
--AND A FEW GENTLER ONES AS WELL.

BUT TIME, WHICH IGNORES THE GODS, TAKES A HEAVY TOLL ON MAN. SO IT IS THAT TODAY, ALL THAT HERCULES HAS LEFT OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH COMMANDER MALIN IS--

--THE MEMORY!

COME, RECORDER! 'TIS TIME FOR US TO MOVE ON!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
**MY LOVE IS...
 GREEN?**



BOB LAYTON - WRITER/ARTIST
RICK PARKER - LETTERER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE - COLORIST
BOB BLUDANSKY - EDITOR
"BIG JIM" SHOOTER, EDITOR IN CHIEF









ENOUGH! I CAN
STOMACH THY BLATHER-
ING ADULATION OF THESE
MORTALS NO LONGER!



CALM THYSELF,
ARES!

CALM... AYE!
LET THE GOD OF
WAR BECOME AS
YE ALL ARE, FAT
AND COMPLACENT!
VERILY, THAT WOULD
PLEASE THEE,
DEAR BROTHER!

HEAR AND KNOW-- THAT
ONE AMONGST US HATH NOT
FORGOTTEN THAT HE IS AN IMMOR-
TAL--ARES, GOD OF WAR!



AND WHAT OF THEE, "DEAR" FATHER?
'TIS THY DOING THAT THESE UPSTART
MORTALS WERE ALLOWED TO GROW,
UNTIL NOW THEY HAVE THE GIFT OF WILL.
WE ARE NO LONGER DIFFERENT FROM
THEM! WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE RE-
LINQUISHED OUR DOMINATION
OVER THEM!

STILL THY
TONGUE! I WARN
THEE, ARES!

I SHALL NOT!
NO LONGER
WILL I COUNTEANCE
OUR RACE'S DECAY!



THOU HAST DONE THY LOUISH
CHILD, HERCULES, A GREAT SERVICE
BY BANISHING HIM! AT LEAST, HE
DOETH NOT HAVE TO WATCH THE
MIGHTY GODS OF OLYMPUS
BECOME--

--AS OLD
WOMEN!

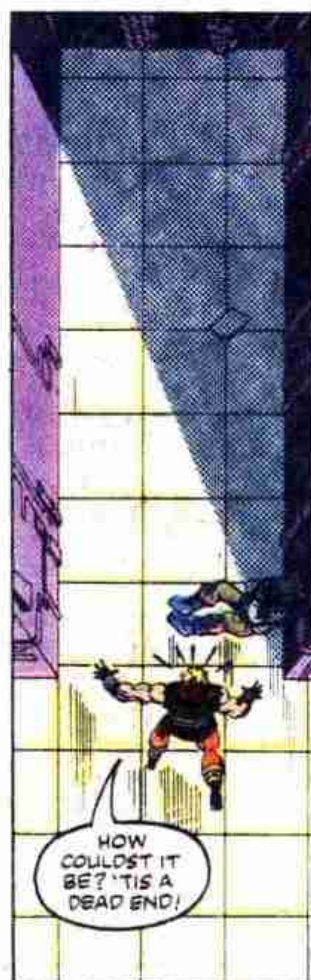


ALL ARE SILENT! THE RAGE-FILLED GAZE OF ZEUS FREEZES
HIS SON WHERE HE STANDS!

A FEAR ENVELOPS ARES!
BEING SUCH AS NONE THE
GOD OF WAR HAS EVER
KNOWN!











NOW, SEE HERE! YOU CAN'T--

OF ALL THE NERVE--!

THE PRINCE OF POWER WOULD HAVE HIS SAY WITH THEE, MILADY!



GO AWAY! YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!

THOU SHALT HEAR ME OUT, THIS TIME! NEVER, IN ALL MY LONG LIFETIME, HAVE I SEEN A FAIRER MAIDEN THAN THEE!



INTERROGATIVE: IF I MAY INTERRUPT, SIR?



OBSERVATION: BODY TEMPERATURE IS 104°... PULSE RATE 6.05 TIMES NORMAL... ABNORMAL ENERGY-FLUX READINGS...

RECORDER--WHAT ART THOU TRYING TO SAY?

STATEMENT: CLEARLY, THAT WOMAN TO WHOM YOU ARE ABOUT TO PROPOSE-- IS A SKRULL!



REVEAL THYSELF, SKRULL! OR, BY ZEUS, I SHALL MAKE THEE PAY DEARLY!

HIS TRUST IN HIS CYBERNETIC FRIEND IS UNWAVERING! WITHOUT HESITATION HERCULES REACTS--



THE CROWD GASPS IN HORROR, AS--

OKAY...OKAY, STERIOD BREATH! J-JUST DON'T HURT ME!

THE EXQUISITE FORM OF WOMANHOOD DISSOLVES INTO THAT OF A SMALL, WIZENED SKRULL--A REVELATION THAT QUICKLY TURNS THE ONLOOKERS' MOOD TO--









